

ALABAMA STATE–COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCES

Economic Recovery & Infrastructure

Meeting Notes

January 26, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

| NAME | AGENCY & INFORMATION | NAME | AGENCY & INFORMATION |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Rocky Milliman | ADECA | Corlis Floyd | ADECA |
| Bob Haywood | FEMA | Ronald Davis | USDA - RD |
| Tye Warren | ASBDC | | |
| | | | |
| Via telephone: | | | |
| Anne Keller | US EPA Atlanta | Allen Bowen | USDA - RD |

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome

- Rocky Milliman, LTCR Coordinator, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.
(NOTE: Because the same agenda items were discussed at the 1/26/12, 10:00 a.m., meeting of the Community Planning and Capacity Building and the Natural and Cultural Resources Task Forces and the same attendees were present, notes from that meeting are included herein.)

Introduction of FEMA Partner

- Bob Haywood is the FEMA representative assigned to Alabama's LTCR office and will be joined soon by 7 other staff members assigned to support Alabama communities in the long term recovery process.

Accept Meeting Notes

- The notes from the August 31, 2011, ER TF meeting were approved as written.

Updates to Current Programs & Support Being Provided to the Communities

- ADECA Director Jim Byard and LTCR staff member Stephanie Southerland attended the groundbreaking ceremony on 1/21/12 for Rainsville's Memorial Monument project.
- Rainsville has received all the funding for the technology upgrade at Plainview High School and the broadband width has been upgraded to handle the new technology.
- Hackleburg is moving forward with the reconstruction of its Wrangler plant and a Dollar General will be locating to the area.
- Work continues by the LTCR staff to find funding for a grocery store in Cordova and the waste water project in Phil Campbell.
- Architects/engineers will be conducting a feasibility study with reference to combining the water and sewer treatment plant project to include Hackleburg, Phil Campbell and Bear Creek
- HUD has approved approximately \$55 million in CDBG designated funding. CDBG staff is working to insure that all the communities/counties affected by the April 27 tornadoes are listed as eligible to apply for some of those monies.

ALABAMA STATE–COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCES

Economic Recovery & Infrastructure

Meeting Notes

January 26, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.

- USDA has funds and is ready to offer its support and has been in contact with the various communities with reference to water and sewer projects. There are short deadlines in place to submit and get approval of applications. Approximately \$35 million is also available for loan to non-profits for projects that fall under the community/facility designation.
- The Governor, through Executive Order 21, established the Tornado Recovery Action Council of Alabama (TRAC). The Council's report entitled "Cultivating a State of Readiness---Our Response to April 27, 2011" is available for review at www.tracalabama.org.
- EPA is available to offer technical assistance through training workshops. In addition, EPA has funded several non-profits, one being Smart Growth America, who offer expert training in various areas through an application process. Anne Keller of EPA will send the LTCR office information about the workshop training available by and through EPA.
- Sustainability opportunities need to be addressed/defined and this is an area where EPA could offer training assistance.
- Task Force members suggested that recovery committees concentrate on developing strategic plans to attract industry and people to their communities, invite guest speakers to share experiences on how to take ideas and make them happen in northwest Alabama, focus on economic development along the I-22 corridor, and meet with local commissions and councils to discover ways to attract and provide economic stimulus.
- Alabama Small Business Development Center Network is an agency that assists in solving capital needs and provides one-on-one counseling for small businesses. Tye Warren is the Director of Capital Access for this agency and may be contacted by email at tye.warren@au.edu.

Review of Long Term Recovery Plans & Prioritization of Projects

- Agencies/organizations are asked to review the Long Term Recovery Plans for each community (on ADECA's website referenced above) and contact the LTCR office if you or your agency can provide assistance or funding for any of the individual projects identified in the plans.

FEMA's Role in the Recovery

- In addition to providing an in-house Disaster Recovery Coordinator, FEMA will provide:
 - A Research Coordinator to assist communities in identifying funding sources for projects
 - A Communications person to promote ongoing communications between and among communities and state/federal agencies and to assist with the publication of a newsletter
 - 5 Long Term Community Recovery Managers that will live and work in the communities of Cordova, Hackleburg, Holt, Phil Campbell and Rainsville and help in all aspects of organizing for the recovery implementation phase by fine tuning project descriptions, etc., to accelerate funding
- Initial service commitment of FEMA staff is for 6 months. In May 2012, the status of all the recovery projects will be evaluated to determine if FEMA's service commitment for technical assistance needs to be extended.

Contractor's Role in Recovery

- Through the RFP process, a contractor is being solicited to support long term recovery.
- The contractor will act primarily as an advisor and assist each community/county with economic development, strategic planning, etc.

ALABAMA STATE–COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCES

Economic Recovery & Infrastructure

Meeting Notes

January 26, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

- A tentative date for the next meeting is February 23. Meeting notices will be emailed approximately 7 to 10 days prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.